

European Patients' Forum Newsletter

A strong patients' voice to drive better health in Europe



//NOV 2017 ISSUE

Welcome to the latest issue of our Newsletter!

The EPF Secretariat is preparing for the **campaign on Access to Healthcare** with a high-level meeting in the European Parliament taking place on 6 December! We expect around 150 participants, and we look forward to the presence of high-level speakers and, in particular, welcoming our EU Commissioner for Health, Mr Andriukaitis, and the several MEP Champions of the campaign. The meeting will be an opportunity to present the campaign's Roadmap, led by EPF and co-created by many stakeholders interested in this area, and to discuss why attaining Universal Health Coverage is pivotal to the delivery of the other targets within the goal on health in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and indeed achieving many other goals linked to equity and inclusion.

On the same topic, we invite you to read the **interview of MEP Miriam Dalli**, where she explains why she decided to champion the Access campaign area on discrimination and stigma. #Access2030

Aiming to highlight the value of patient organisations as legitimate stakeholders in civil dialogue in health-related policies, EPF is delighted to launch its **report on the Added Value of Patient Organisations**. The document has been very well received by EPF members and health stakeholders more generally, as a powerful tool to articulate why and how patient organisations make a difference.

On the occasion of the **World Antibiotic Awareness Week**, EPF organised a Breakfast Briefing on the topic, for which we invited Dominique Monnet from the ECDC to inform EPF members and the general public on the pressing issue of antibiotic resistance, its causes, how to fight it, and what EPF members could do to contribute.

EPF continues its close **cooperation with the OECD** on healthcare quality indicators, and in particular patient-relevant outcomes. We are proud to contribute to this international effort to assess health systems' performance from a patient perspective.

Following the publication of the **2017 Country-Specific Recommendations by the European Commission in the context of the Semester Process**, EPF has issued a statement providing an overview of the recommendations focusing on health and long-term care, and calling for improvements to increase transparency and enhance the implementation phases of the process.

In October, the **EPF Capacity Building Programme** continued to strengthen patient organisations both in Hungary and Poland. Through several training sessions, participants learnt to develop their communications strategies and received tailored support to improve their strategic plans.

Also last month, almost 100 participants gathered in Brussels for the **Final Conference of PRO-STEP** – the pilot project focusing on self-management in chronic conditions. During the event, partners shared the main outcomes of the project and discussed direction for further research.

Finally, this month our **Blog** features a post on the **social media milestones of the EPF Youth Group**, and a summary of the activities organised by our member IDF Europe, celebrating **World Diabetes Day**.

Happy reading!

Marco Greco, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General



TAKING ACTION: EPF ORGANISES MEETING TO PRESENT AND DISCUSS NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

PATIENT ORGANISATIONS: THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

[SEE OUR VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

04/12/2017 | [EPF roundtable on the Implementation of](#)



After almost one year of intense work on Universal Health Coverage, EPF will present the conclusions of its campaign on Access to Healthcare during a high-level policy roundtable on Wednesday 6 December. The campaign's roadmap containing recommendations to decision-makers to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all by 2030 will be launched on this occasion.

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Patient organisations represent and voice the situation of a specific population that would otherwise not be represented. Yet, the scope and the role of patient organisations are still very often misunderstood. With this in mind, the European Patients' Forum (EPF) commissioned a report to highlight the value of patient organisations as legitimate stakeholders in civil dialogue in health-related policies.

[READ MORE »](#)

[the EU Directive on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance
Kostas Aligiannis

05/12/2017 | [Cross Industry meeting](#)

EPF speaker
Nicola Bedlington

06/12/2017 | [Access Campaign Policy Roundtable](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance
EPF Secretariat

06/12/2017 | [International symposium on access to medicines - London School of hygiene and tropical medicine \(TBC\)](#)

London

EPF attendance
Kaisa Immonen

07/12/2017 | [European Nutrition for Health Alliance \(EHNA\) member meeting](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance
Katie Gallagher

11/12/2017 | [AIM Seminar - Vaccine Hesitancy](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance
Sara Gayarre

12/12/2017 | [EPF Board Meeting](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance:
EPF Board

7/12/2017 | [Horizon 2020 Health Partnering Event](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance:
Lyudmil Ninov

5/12/2017 | [IEEE Summit on Technology for Health: Transforming Healthcare and Wellbeing](#)

Brussels

EPF attendance:
Lyudmil Ninov

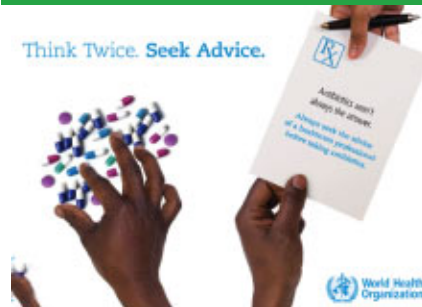
MEP DALLI: "IN THE CONTEXT OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE, THE EU SHOULD NOT BE EXPLAINING BUT REACTING"



MEP Miriam Dalli (S&D, Malta) is one of the 5 champion MEPs of the EPF Campaign on Access to Healthcare. A member of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety at the European Parliament, Ms Dalli supports the campaign workstream on discrimination and stigma.

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EPF GETS INVOLVED TO #KEEPANTIBIOTICSWORKING



As every year, EPF supported the fight against antibiotic resistance by getting involved in the World Antibiotic Awareness Week co-ordinated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the ECDC during 13-19 November.

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EPF PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO ASSESS HEALTH SYSTEMS' PERFORMANCE FROM A PATIENT PERSPECTIVE



EPF has developed close cooperation with the OECD in the last years, namely on healthcare quality indicators. We are delighted to see that the patient perspective is more and more considered as added value

EPF SHARES ITS INSIGHTS ON THE 2017 COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON HEALTH



Last week the European Commissioners discussed national budgets and outlined the most pressing economic and social issues which the European Union and its members need to address in 2018. In this context, EPF

to their work, and we will continue this collaboration in the hope that new indicators are actually meaningful for patients and co-designed with them.

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EPF CONTINUES STRENGTHENING PATIENT ORGANISATIONS IN HUNGARY AND POLAND



In October, EPF concluded the fourth module of its Capacity Building Programme in Hungary and its first module in Poland. In Hungary, eight organisations developed their communication strategies, while 18 Polish organisations received tailored support on developing their strategic plans.

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BLOG: SOCIAL MEDIA MILESTONES FOR THE EPF YOUTH GROUP

MIND THE INVISIBLE ILLNESS



In November, the EPF Youth Group revealed two exciting social media projects that will contribute to further raise the Youth Group's profile and reach more young patients throughout Europe: a video on non-discrimination, and a redesigned webpage.

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is publishing its "Statement on the 2017 Country-Specific Recommendations on Health and Long-term Care and the European Semester Process".

[READ MORE »](#)

PRO-STEP FINAL CONFERENCE: SHARING RESULTS ON SELF-MANAGEMENT IN PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS



The PRO-STEP Final Conference took place on 23-24 October in Brussels and gathered almost 100 participants. It was the opportunity for partners to present the main outcomes of the project and to discuss further collaborations on self-management for patients with chronic conditions in the EU.

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BLOG: IDF EUROPE CELEBRATES WORLD DIABETES DAY IN THE EU INSTITUTIONS!



World Diabetes Day was celebrated on 14 November all around the world, and EPF member IDF Europe organised several activities in the European institutions to bring the topic and their advocacy work to a higher policy level.

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A STRONG PATIENTS' VOICE TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE

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